use of Titanium ore and Illiminite sand on a regular basis, measurement of heat fluxes regularly and flushing of waterline wherever and whenever there is rise in heat flux.

(b) The approval for relining of blast furnace No.4 has not yet been accorded by the Board of Directors of IISCO.

Quality of teaching

*140. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of arts, science and engineering colleges are becoming workshops that maintain no quality or standard of teaching;

(b) whether it is a fact that graduates coming out of these colleges are unemployable, without any skills; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to improve the quality of education so that the engineering and other technical students, when they come out of the colleges, are really equipped with skills and are at once employable?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) "Complaints have been received by the Government about some institutions not maintaining the desired level of standards. Government is concerned about the quality of education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)—statutory bodies responsible for improvement of quality in Arts/Science and Engineering disciplines respectively, are taking various steps for ensuring quality in education. The AICTE accords approval to technical institutions after ensuring availability of adequate infrastructural facilities in terms of faculty, building, library, equipments, etc. Same is the case with the Universities in respect of Arts and Science.

As per the recent analysis of the Labour Market by the National Technology and Management Information System (NTMIS), the engineering degree holders are absorbed within two to three years of

passing their examination in the labour market whereas the diploma holders take around three years or more for complete absorption to the labour market. However, the prospect of employment for Engineering Graduates differs discipline-wise, programme-wise and state-wise. Most of the Engineering Colleges have training and Placement Cells as well as Campus Interviews to enable the graduating students to find employment. As envisaged in the National Policy on Education, the UGC implemented the recommendations made by the Core Committee on Vocationalisation (Career Orientation) of Education at the first degree level from 1994-95, the objective of which was to ensure that the students develop knowledge, skills and attitudes for gainful employment.

For overall improvement in the quality of technical education, AICTE operates various schemes, namely, National Technology and Management Information System (NTMIS); Modernization and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROB); Thrust Areas Programme in Technical Education (TAPTEC); Research and Development Programme (R&DP); Industry Institute Parternship Cell (IIPC); Enterpreneurship Management Development; Staff Development Programmes including Continuing Education Programmes, Quality Improvement Programme (QIP), Early Faculty Induction Programme (EFIP); Career Awards for young teachers; Emeritus Fellowships, etc. National Board of Accreditation is functioning under the aegis of AICTE and a similar body, namely, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is functioning under UGC for assessment of colleges under the Universities. With a view to providing necessary direction to the technical education system in the country towards promotion of Postgraduate Education and Research in Engineering and Technology, in December 2001, the Ministry has announced a Policy Framework which provides for increasing the duration of M. Tech. Programmes from 18 to 24 months; raising the scholarship amount (from Rs 2500 to Rs. 5000 per month for M. Tech. Programmes, from Rs. 6000 to Rs. 7000 per month for M. Tech. holders and Rs. 6000 per month for B. Tech/M. Sc. holders with increment of Rs. 500 per annum for Doctoral Programmes); increasing the outturn of Postgraduate students/Ph. D. holders;

extensive use of IT based distance education; periodic phasing out of outdated Postgraduate Programmes; encouraging accreditation of courses; promotion of industrial participation and introduction of technology entrepreneur; introduction of national fellowships to scholars pursuing Doctoral Programmes; expansion/strengthening of Early Faculty Induction Programme; commencement of Sequential Summer School Programmes, expansion/strengthening of Quality Improvement Programme, etc."

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Salinity Increase in Gujarat

909. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SMT. SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salinity increase in Gujarat is causing a concern to agriculture;

(b) if so, how much land has been rendered useless for agriculture due to salinity ingress in Gujarat during the recent years;

(c) what steps Government propose and the time frame to meet the above situation, to stop salinity ingress; and

(d) the details of saline land of States and Union Territories having coastal areas, from 1991 to 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Enhanced exploitation of ground water in the coastal region has resulted in increase in the salinity in Gujarat. Deterioration of the quality of ground water and enhanced salinity in the soil profile has caused serious threat to agriculture.

(b) As per available estimates, an area of 10.42 lakh ha. is affected by salinity including coastal salinity in the State of Gujarat.

(c) A Joint Central Team visited the States of West Bengal,